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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

BIRCH, P. et al.

Atty. Ref.: 117-524; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. To be assigned

Group:

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: